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Factories in Northeast Korea

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Uniform Factory, Yondae-ri

1. On 18 June 1952 a North Korean Army uniform factory was being operated in a place 2 kilometers northwest of Yondae-ri (128-50, 40-28) (DV-8679). The factory occupied about 50 farm houses, which contained 200 looms and 50 sewing machines. There were 300 women workers, aged 20 to 30, who were relatives of North Korean soldiers. The daily output was 6,000 square meters of cotton cloth from the looms and 500 army uniform jackets and 500 pairs of trousers from the sewing machines.

Tannery, Sagok and Changhung-ni

2. On 11 July 1952, a tannery called the North Korean Army Factory Number 301 had a workshop and warehouse in Sagok (127-26, 39-08) (CU-656328), and another workshop and warehouse near Changhung-ni (127-26, 39-07) (CU-657307).
3. The workshop and warehouse in Sagok were at the foot of a mountain in a compound surrounded by barbed wire and overgrown with trees. The workshop had walls and a roof made of unpainted wood and was camouflaged with pine branches. The warehouse had a straw-thatched roof. The workshop near Changhung-ni had walls and a roof made of unpainted wood. Both of these buildings were uncamouflaged. A narrow-gauge track for hauling material used in the construction of caves had been laid around these two buildings. Construction of the caves was underway.

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4. WÖN T'ae-söp (Q337/3141/3610), aged 39, a North Korean Labor Party member, was manager of the factory. There were 50 workers, including 32 Labor Party members. On 11 July 1952, 28 workers were observed repairing machines at the workshops and 18 were observed storing goods in the warehouses.
5. The tannery was engaged in tanning cowhide to be sent to other North Korean army factories. The production rate was unknown. Rawhides were being brought in from Manchuria. On 5 July, 120 rawhides were stored in the warehouses. The machines used at the factory were being operated with power from generators.

Shoe Factory, Sagok

6. On 11 July 1952, a North Korean army shoe factory was being operated near Sagok at CU-655324. The factory was in a cave near a cemetery. The roof of the cave was .7 to 1.2 meters thick and the door was 1.5 meters high. This cave was camouflaged with grass.
7. This factory was producing combat boots and long boots. In June 1952, the monthly output was 2,500 pairs of combat boots and 1,500 pairs of long boots.¹ Raw materials were purchased from North Korean Army Factory Number 301. There were 14 men and 15 women employees. The plant was equipped with 12 sewing machines.

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Ordnance Factory, Sōngjin

8. Prior to 7 August 1952, there was an underground factory in the Sōngjin (129-12, 40-40) (EA-1701) area at EA-180052 which was producing hand grenades and ammunition and repairing weapons. There were 100 employees.

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 Comment. the boots were being made of leather obtained from the nearby tannery. If this is the case, the monthly output of 4,000 boots seems high, since each worker would have to turn out about 5 pairs a day.

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